



## State of Connecticut

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### TESTIMONY ON SB 227 PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MARCH 1, 2010

Representative Sharkey, Senator Coleman, members of the Planning & Development Committee, I would like to testify in favor of SB 227, "AN ACT CONCERNING THE UNAUTHORIZED USE OF ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES AND SNOWMOBILES," which would increase the penalty for unauthorized use of an all-terrain vehicle or snowmobile on state, municipal and private property.

In North Haven, we maintain Peter's Rock, a local park that we preserve in its natural state and make available to the public for free for passive recreational uses.

Unfortunately, some members of our larger community use the park for illegal ATV recreation, destroying the hiking trails, driving off native wildlife, and disrupting legal use of the park by residents. I personally can vouch for the level of frustration that this misuse causes because, besides being North Haven's State Representative, I'm also a founding member of the Peter's Rock Association, the nonprofit organization that we established to support Peter's Rock for public use. Needless to say, our organization lacks the time and resources to monitor the park for illegal use, much less to repair all of the damage that ATVs inflict on a regular basis.

This bill would provide a small, additional tool to our local police department, and indeed, police departments all over this state, to deter such illegal use. For this reason, I urge this committee to pass this bill.

Thank you very much for your consideration.